

# *The U.S. Embassy Literature Series*

*The Consulate General of the United States of America in Frankfurt in cooperation with  
the Museum Judengasse Frankfurt*

presents

## **Lev Raphael**

**My Germany:**

**A Jewish Writer Returns to the World  
His Parents Escaped**



*Welcome remarks by*

Fritz Backhaus, Deputy Director, Jewish Museum Frankfurt

Doria Rosen, Deputy Principal Officer, U.S. Consulate General Frankfurt

*The reading and discussion will be conducted in English.*

**Saturday, October 30, 2010  
7.30 pm**

*Venue:*

Museum Judengasse

Kurt-Schumacher-Str. 10

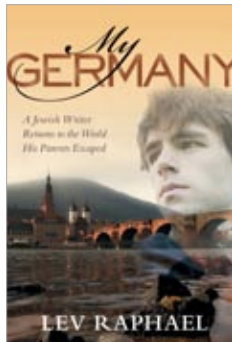
60311 Frankfurt am Main



U.S. Consulate General  
Frankfurt



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“As the New York-born son of eastern European Jews who barely survived the Holocaust, Lev Raphael grew up in a world haunted by secrets and ghosts. Having spent years fleeing from his parents’ past, he decided to confront that past and, in the process, to come to grips with Germany, the country he blamed for the horrors visited on his parents and, indirectly, on himself. *My Germany* is part travelogue and part detective story, as Raphael sets out to trace what happened to his parents and their families during the war. Above all, it is a wholly enthralling, beautifully written story of healing and forgiveness, in which Raphael not only sheds his hatred and fear of Germany but comes to a deeper, richer understanding of his parents and Jewish heritage—and, above all, of himself.”

—Lynne Olson, Author of *Troublesome Young Men*

“Raphael contributes again to the genre of second-generation Holocaust literature in which he is a pioneer. In this poignant memoir, he takes readers on his journey to reconcile with the past. Having grown up in New York with survivor parents who hated Germans and everything German, Raphael is nervous when given the opportunity to do a book tour in Germany for his book *Secret Anniversaries of the Heart*. With much trepidation, he visits the places that haunted his family and caused him to bear the burden of their pain. True to his other works, his book is powerful and captivating to the end, painting vivid pictures of his parents’ suffering, his hatred of Germany, and eventually his healing and reconciliation.” —*Library Journal* (STARRED REVIEW)

“Lev Raphael writes with the precision of a neurosurgeon, the warmth of an ancient storyteller, and the soul of a people that has known the extremes of joy and sorrow, hope and despair, love and hate more than almost any other.” —*The Jewish Bulletin*, San Francisco

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Lev Raphael is the author of 19 books in genres from mystery to memoir. He has spoken about his work on three continents and is best known for his prize-winning fiction and creative non-fiction about the children of Holocaust survivors, which he’s been publishing since 1978. Lev has written hundreds of reviews and essays for *The Detroit Free Press*, *Jerusalem Report*, *Forward*, *The Washington Post*, *The Ft. Worth Star-Telegram*, *Boston Review* and *Lambda Book Report*. A former radio talk show host, he currently reviews for WKAR 90.5 FM in East Lansing, MI, blogs for the Huffington Post, and writes the Book Brunch column for Bibliobuffet.com. Lev lives in Okemos, Michigan. (More: <http://www.levraphael.com>)